Amendments to the Specification:

Please add at page 2 after the title and before FIELD OF THE INVENTION, the following new paragraph:

-- This application is a divisional application of prior application Ser. No. 10/214,830 filed August 8, 2002, now allowed, which is a divisional application of prior application Ser. No. 09/655,360 filed September 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,476,241 issued November 5, 2002. --

Please replace the 1st paragraph on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~process,~~ process forming an interflavan bond. This process can be repeated once or several times, resulting in chain-type oligomers which together with the dimers are known as non-hydrolyzable tannins, condensed tannins, or proanthocyanidins. As one skilled in the art will realize, the structural complexity of these compounds rapidly increases with their chain length as a consequence of different hydroxylation patterns and C-3 stereochemistry in the monomer ~~unit~~ units and different regio- and stereochemistries of the interflavan linkages, as well as additional structural modifications. In addition, chain branching may occur by alkylation of a monomer unit in both its 6- and 8-positions. --

Please replace the 3rd paragraph on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The synthetic challenge posed by procyanidins is related to the difficulty in controlling the interflavan regio- and stereochemistry, as well as the sensitivity of the ~~nonprotected~~ non-protected compounds to acids, bases, and oxidizing agents. The condensation between flavan-3-ols and 4-substituted, electrophilic flavans has traditionally been performed without the use of phenol protecting groups in a mildly acidic medium or ~~recently,~~ recently with $AgBF_4$ for benzylthio as the 4-substituent. The products are mixtures of regio- and sometimes stereoisomers, as well as higher oligomers despite the application of an excess of the nucleophilic building block. They have usually been separated by gel chromatography on Sephadex LH-20, a process that requires a considerable investment of time to develop for each particular separation task because of the unavailability of fast analytical tools such as HPLC columns or thin layer plates for this adsorbent. In addition, optically pure, nonprotected 4-substituted catechins and epicatechins are not readily available, being prepared by reduction of the expensive natural product, (+)-taxifolin (the 4-ketone) or by in situ degradation or thiolytic

degradation of natural proanthocyanidin oligomic fractions for which commercial sources are difficult to identify or nonexistant.

Please replace the 2nd full paragraph on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In one aspect, the invention relates to a process for the preparation of epicatechin-epicatechin dimers or epicatechin-catechin dimers where the nucleophilic aryl organometallic reagent is derived from a protected 8-bromoepicatechin [[,]] or a protected 8-bromoepicatechin or ~~derivative~~ derivatives thereof. --